

321 CMR: DIVISION OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE.

321 CMR 3.00: HUNTING.

3.02: HUNTING, PARTICULAR GAME.

(9) Hunting of Wild Turkey in Massachusetts. In accordance with authority vested in me by M.G.L. c. 131, § 5, as amended by St. 1979, c. 404, I hereby declare an annual open season on wild turkeys, subject to the following:

(a) Definitions: For the purposes of 321 CMR 3.02(9), the following words or phrases shall have the following meanings:

Zone or Zones means the Massachusetts wildlife management zones as described in 321 CMR 3.02(4)(o).

(ab) Open Season. The open season shall be in three periods as follows:

1. In Zones 01 through 10 and 13 ~~as specified in 321 CMR 3.02(4)(o)~~, the spring period of the open season (hereafter “spring season”) shall begin on the last Monday in April and shall end on the fourth Saturday following.

2. In Zones 11 and 12 ~~as specified in 321 CMR 3.02(4)(o)~~, the spring season shall begin on the last Monday in April and end on the second Saturday following.

3. In Zones 01 through 09 and 13 ~~as specified in 321 CMR 3.02(4)(o)~~, the fall period of the open season (hereafter, “fall season”) shall begin on the last Monday in October and end on the first Saturday thereafter.

(bc) Zones. A person shall not hunt a turkey during the spring season except in Zones 01 through 13 ~~as specified in 321 CMR 3.02(9)(a)~~. A person shall not hunt a turkey during the fall season except in Zones 01 through 09 and 13 ~~as specified in 321 CMR 3.02(9)(a)~~.

(ed) Hunting Hours. A person shall not hunt a wild turkey on any day during the spring season except during the period from + hour before sunrise to 12:00 P.M. A person shall not hunt a wild turkey on any day during the fall season except during the period from + hour before sunrise to + hour after sunset, except on wildlife management areas as provided in 321 CMR 3.01(1)(n) where the hunting hours shall be from sunrise to sunset.

(de) Bag Limit. A person shall not kill, take, or possess more than two wild turkeys in any calendar year, provided that during the spring season, the bag limit and possession limit shall be two bearded wild turkeys. Only one wild turkey may be taken per day. During the fall season, the bag limit and possession limit shall be one wild turkey of either sex, provided, that if a person has killed two turkeys during the spring season, then such person shall not be entitled to kill a turkey in the fall season in that same calendar year.

(ef) Bearded Turkey Requirement. A person shall not kill, take, or possess any wild turkey during the spring season unless said turkey is bearded.

(fg) Permit and Tagging Requirements. A person shall not hunt, kill, take, or possess any wild turkey unless he possesses on his person a permit so to do. Such permit shall be valid only for the date or dates stipulated thereon. A person killing a wild turkey shall immediately, before transporting or removing the carcass in any manner from where it was killed, complete and attach to the carcass in a conspicuous manner that portion of the permit designated “turkey tag”. Said turkey tag shall remain attached to the turkey until the turkey is presented to a duly authorized person or checking station at which time the turkey tag shall be surrendered upon request to the official agent in charge thereof. No person shall possess a detached turkey tag except as described in 321 CMR 3.02(9)(fg). Tags detached except as provided herein shall be void and shall be surrendered to any officer empowered to enforce 321 CMR.

(g) Permissible Hunting Methods. A person may hunt wild turkey only by means of a shotgun not larger than ten gauge and shot not larger than size four and not smaller than size six or by means of a bow and arrows as specified in 321 CMR 3.01(3).

(h) Prohibitions. A person shall not hunt or take wild turkeys by means of or set or use any bait, live decoys, electronic or electronically operated callers, nor any trap or other device intended or designed for the purpose of capturing or ensnaring wild turkeys, nor shall any person use or have control of, in any place where turkeys may be found, any dog or dogs while hunting wild turkey, nor shall any person or persons drive, herd or take or attempt to take by driving or herding any wild turkey or turkeys provided that nothing in 321 CMR 3.02(9)(h) shall be construed to prohibit the use of hand or mouth operated turkey calls by persons otherwise lawfully hunting wild turkey.

(i) Safety Sticker Requirement. A person shall not hunt wild turkey with or by means of a shotgun nor have a shotgun in his possession while hunting wild turkey, unless such person has obtained a safety sticker as provided by the Director and applied said sticker to his shotgun in such a manner as to be visible to the shooter when sighting down the barrel of the shotgun. The Director is hereby authorized to provide such safety stickers of a type and design as he may deem appropriate.

(j) Checking Stations. Within 48 hours after killing a wild turkey, the entire carcass shall be presented by the person killing same to a duly authorized person or checking station designated by the Director for the purpose of being recorded and examined for research purposes and having affixed thereto an official seal in such a manner as prescribed by the Director. Said official seal shall remain attached to the turkey until it is skinned, cut up, or otherwise prepared for food purposes or prepared for mounting by a taxidermist. Seals shall be non-transferable and shall be valid only for the animal or carcass to which applied by a designated Division of Fisheries and Wildlife representative. The Director may require, as a condition of checking, that the hunter surrender breast feathers, wing tips, or other biological samples from the turkey presented for checking. For the purpose of 321 CMR 3.02(9)(j), jurisdiction for violations of the prescribed procedure shall be that jurisdiction where said turkey or carcass thereof was possessed after the expiration of 48 hours from the time said turkey was killed.

Regulatory Authority: M.G.L. c. 131, § 5.